

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00245 271809Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----060386 271813Z /70

O R 271738Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7477
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0245

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH ZA
SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) STATE 19753, (B) STATE 17228

1. AMBASSADOR AND POLITICAL OFFICER CALLED ON ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE FOR DISCUSSION OF CURRENT EFFORTS ON RHODESIA BASED ON TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REF B. MWALE POINTED OUT THAT ZAMBIA HAD MADE AN EFFORT TO GET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO AGREE TO GO TO MALTA AND THAT HE HOPED PROGRESS COULD BE MADE AT THE MEETINGS THERE. MWALE SAID THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WAS WHEN SMITH WOULD LEAVE THE SCENE. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE REALIZED THE IMPLICATIONS OF AN ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
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PROPOSALS AND THAT A MAJOR DIFFICULTY HAD BEEN TO GET THE PF TO TALK ABOUT THE PROPOSALS. THEIR PROCRASTINATION AND THEIR EXTREME DEMANDS PLAYED INTO SMITH'S HANDS BY FORCING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE TO SEEK POWER THROUGH HIM.

2. MWALE SAID THAT THE GREATEST PROBLEM WAS THAT ALL THE NATIONALISTS WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT OF AN INDEPENDENT

ZIMBABWE. THEY HAVE SPENT MUCH OF THEIR TIME WORKING OUT WHAT THEY WILL DO AS LEADER OF THE COUNTRY AND "THIS GAME COULD ERUPT INTO A HOLOCAUST." EVERYONE IS ARMED AND READY TO FIGHT. EVEN MUZOREWA IS TRYING TO FORM AN ARMY. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE UK-US PROPOSAL SPOKE TO THIS PROBLEM BY CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF AN ARMY WHICH WOULD BE LOYAL TO THE STATE AND NOT TO A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL.

3. STATING THAT HE HAD A LOT OF FAITH IN PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION FOR THE GENUINENESS OF INTENTIONS REGARDING RHODESIA, MWALE SAID HE AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA, HOWEVER, STILL MAINTAINED A LARGE MEASURE OF DISTRUST OF THE BRITISH. HE SAID THAT ZAMBIANS KNOW THE BRITISH AND ONE MUST BEWARE OF THEIR "INGENIOUS DUPLICITY." THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE UNITED STATES STILL STOOD FIRMLY BEHIND THE PROPOSALS AND INTENDED TO PURSUE WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE A FAIR AND REASONABLE WAY TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE FOR RHODESIA. MWALE WISHED US GOOD LUCK IN THE MALTA DISCUSSIONS AND ADDED THAT THE PRESSURE MUST BE KEPT ON SMITH.

4. COMMENT: MWALE DID NOT THIS TIME ATTEMPT TO PUT FORWARD ANY BRIEF FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, NOR DID HE QUESTION REFERENCES TO THE NEED TO GUARANTEE THE FAIRNESS OF THE PROCESS FOR ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING MUZOREWA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SITHOLE. WHILE HE MAY NOT BE REFLECTIVE OF THE VIEWS OF KAUNDA IN THIS REGARD, ON THE WHOLE MWALE GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF A SOMEWHAT SOFTENED STAND REGARDING THE POSITION AND POWER WHICH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD HOLD DURING ANY TRANSITION PROCESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA00245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0328
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780115/aaaaalzp.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 33b070df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 19753, 78 STATE 17228
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3702161
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PDEV, RH, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/33b070df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014